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GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Part-time)

MARJORY A. DAWSON, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.

for the

YEAR 1951

(Presented on Dr. Dawson's behalf by)  
(Dr. K. M. Harding, Acting Medical )  
( Officer of Health. )



GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of Gipping R. D. C.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1951.

The year under review has been a fairly healthy one, there being no major epidemics of any kind. The incidence of Whooping Cough was highest in the first quarter of the year and that of measles in the third quarter.

Diphtheria immunisation was carried out in the majority of pre-school and school children, and once more prevented incidence of the disease. The only case of diphtheria was of a mild nature and occurred in a man who had never been immunised. Two cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year, both being mild in type. At the beginning of December there was an outbreak of paratyphoid fever in the rural district and the neighbouring urban district. Investigations were set in motion immediately on notification of the first case and the outbreak was controlled by Christmas Eve. The course of the outbreak was shortened considerably by the untiring work of the members of the Sanitary Department. The co-operation of the Practitioners, the Sanitary Inspectors and the laboratory service was such that the outbreak was limited to 30 cases. Without the continued vigilance of those mentioned the outbreak might have assumed alarming proportions.

The much needed main water scheme has not yet been achieved. In the year under review there were no crises, but one feels that this state of affairs is due to constant surveillance of the many sources of water supply in the district rather than to the absence of prejudicial factors in the various shallow wells, ditches and ponds upon which so many of the population rely. We can but hope that next

year I can report that the scheme is in the process of achievement.

I wish to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation I have received from the members of the Council's staff, especially those in my own department. I also wish to thank Mr. Morgan for his help in the harmonious accomplishment of duties and Mr. Adams for his most valuable clerical assistance.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

MARJORY A. DAWSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

(A) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	79,898 acres
Population (Registrar Generals figure)				20,510
Inhabited houses	...	...		6,018
Rateable Value	...	...		£78,273
Sum represented by a Penny rate	...			£318

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Total	156	178	Total	5	1
Legitimate	144	169	Legitimate	5	1
Illegitimate	12	9	Illegitimate	-	-

<u>LIVE BIRTH RATE</u>	Per 1,000 population	16.3
	England and Wales	15.5

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under one year:

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Total	4	5
Legitimate	3	5
Illegitimate..	1	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	26.9
England and Wales	29.6

Deaths of Infants under four weeks:

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Total	2	4
Legitimate	2	4
Illegitimate..	-	-

DEATHS

All causes	Total	230
	Male	111
	Female	119

<u>DEATH RATE</u>	Per 1,000 population	11.2
	England and Wales	12.5

## COMPARABILITY FACTORS

Area Comparability Factor	-	Births	1.08
	-	Deaths	0.86

### (B) COMMENTS ON GENERAL STATISTICS

- (1) The estimated population increased by 970.
- (2) The Birth Rate, although lower than the figure for 1950, still compares favourably with the overall rate for England and Wales.
- (3) The Infantile Mortality Rate showed an increase on the figure for 1950, but is still below the rate for England and Wales.
- (4) The Death Rate was slightly higher than it was in 1950, though still below the overall rate for England and Wales.

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### (C) COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLE FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Estimated Population	18,470	18,810	18,960	19,540	20,510
Live Births	386	334	332	331	334
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	20.9	17.7	17.5	16.9	16.3
Total Infant Deaths (under one year)	15	6	10	4	9
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	38.9	18.0	30.1	12.1	26.9
Total Deaths	222	186	240	211	230
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	12.0	9.8	12.6	10.8	11.2

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(D) CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH (REGISTRAR GENERALS FIGURES)

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis - Respiratory	2	1	3
2. Whooping Cough	1	-	1
3. Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	-	1
4. Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	3	-	3
5. Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, bronchus	4	-	4
6. Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	4	4
7. Other malignant neoplasms	9	10	19
8. Diabetes	1	1	2
9. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	14	23
10. Coronary disease, angina	18	13	31
11. Hypertension with heart disease	2	5	7
12. Other heart disease	18	35	53
13. Other circulatory disease	4	6	10
14. Influenza	5	5	10
15. Pneumonia	4	6	10
16. Bronchitis	3	5	8
17. Other diseases of Respiratory System	2	1	3
18. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
19. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
20. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
21. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
22. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	8	16
23. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
24. All other accidents	6	1	7
25. Suicide	3	2	5
	111	119	230



(E) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)

PERIOD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1951.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Measles	4	7	6	1	58	24	35	10	6	-	-	-	151
Whooping Cough	27	40	26	24	25	16	13	-	1	-	-	1	173
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	7
Acute Pneumonia	5	2	1	3	2	3	1	-	-	1	-	1	19
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Dysentery	1	6	5	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Diphtheria	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7
Totals	37	58	38	36	90	44	49	11	9	2	0	11	385



(F) AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1951

Disease	Age								Total	Admitted Hospital
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25+	Unknown		
Measles	5	22	33	68	14	5	3	1	151	-
Whooping Cough	9	38	44	71	6	1	4	-	173	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	3	1	1	-	-	7	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	2	2	1	1	2	11	-	19	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	3	-
Dysentery	-	2	1	5	-	6	7	-	21	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	1	1	1	1	3	-	7	7
Totals									385	9

(G) TUBERCULOSIS(1) New cases notified:

Pulmonary (Lungs) ... 11 Males 4 Females

Non-Pulmonary (Glands, bones  
and joints etc) 2 Males 4 Females

(2) Ages of new cases:

Pulmonary: Males 8; 25; 26; 27; 28; 32; 39; 42; 51;  
55; 63.

Females 3; 5; 29; 34.

Non-Pulmonary: Males 4; 4.

Females 9; 10; 12; 19.

(3) Cases "crossed off the register as recovered" during year

Pulmonary: Males 1 Females -

Non-Pulmonary: Males - Females 1

(4) Died during the year

Pulmonary: Males 2 Females 1

Non-Pulmonary: Males - Females -

(5) Cases on Register at end of Year

Pulmonary: 40 Males 25 Females 65 Total

Non-Pulmonary: 21 Males 25 Females 46 Total

(E) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION (Figures kindly supplied by the  
County Medical Officer of Health)

(1) Pre-school population 1861  
No. of pre-school children immunised 934  
Percentage of pre-school children immunised 50.19

(2) School Population 2839  
No. of school children immunised 2193  
Percentage of all children immunised 66.53

(3) Booster treatment during 1950 317

(I) SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was taken under this Section of the Act during 1951.

(J) WATER SUPPLIES

I am indebted to Mr. E. A. Morgan, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for the following report:-

(1) Apart from shallow well sources, public supplies sampled during the year, have, with very few exceptions, proved entirely satisfactory. Due to there being no prolonged period of drought

all types of sources, public and private, were adequate in quantity. The quality of private supplies cannot be regarded as satisfactory, and this state of affairs helps to emphasise the necessity for the installation of the public main water scheme as soon as possible.

(2) Of 31 samples taken from public mains, 5 - from two separate sources - were unsatisfactory. Action in respect of these sources was successfully taken by the Engineer and Surveyor. Only one chemical sample was taken from a public mains supply and this proved satisfactory in quality.

(3) None of the water supplies in the area have a plumbo-solvent action.

(4) The number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains is given below according to parish distribution:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Laid on to properties</u>	<u>Taken from Stand-pipes</u>
Ashbocking	15	37
Ashfield-cum-Thorpe	46	4
Barham	13	22
Bramford	592	-
Buxhall	5	6
Creeping St. Mary	33	37
Crowfield	33	45
Debenham	159	76
Framsden	20	3
Gosbeck	26	17
Great Bricett	16	18
Great Finborough	7	17
Haughley	181	53
Hemingstone	2	3
Henley	16	16
Mickfield	22	28
Pettaugh	11	33
Ringshall	9	-
Stonham Aspal	61	77
Stonham Earl	12	11
Stonham Parva	44	58
Stowupland	275	-
Wetherden	-	14
Winston	35	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	1,633	592
	<hr/>	<hr/>

I am indebted to Mr. R. C. Riches, Engineer and Surveyor, for the following three reports:-

(K) REGIONAL WATER SCHEME

For the period covering this report, negotiations with various Authorities are still in progress.

(L) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Tenders for works in connection with sewerage in the Parishes of Bramford and Debenham have been received and are under consideration.

(M) HOUSING

During the year under review 61 Council houses have been completed, with 45 in course of erection.

In addition 25 private houses have been erected.

This brings the total number of houses erected since the war by the Gipping Rural District Council to 291.

(N) BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK (Figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health)

Number of samples examined	...	...	59
Number found to contain tubercle bacilli.			1
Number found to contain brucella organisms			6

(O) Q FEVER INVESTIGATION (Figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health)

Number of samples examined	...	...	35
Number found to contain tubercle bacilli.			0
Number found to contain brucella organisms			0
Number found to contain Q Fever.		...	0

(P) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Details of action taken is given in the Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(Q) FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

(R) MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE FORM 572

A copy has been forwarded to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, and further copies will be attached to the copies of this Annual Report forwarded to the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the County Council.

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GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1951





GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L                      R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF            SANITARY            INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR    1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my eighth Annual Report on the activities of your Sanitary Department.

1951, far from being a year of progressive achievement, was in fact one in which the effect of inadequate or inexperienced staff clearly showed its influence on the promotion of efficiency. Between the latter end of 1950 and the middle of 1951 we lost the services of, firstly, the Cleansing Foreman, (Mr. M. J. Burns), then one of the District Sanitary Inspectors (Mr. E. G. Hall) transferred to the Surveyor's Department as Housing Manager, and, finally, the Clerical Assistant (Mr. S. A. Seamans), who had by far the longest period of service in the Department, became Committee Clerk in the Clerk's Department. All three were able, loyal and conscientious colleagues and their departure, although in their own interests, was sincerely regretted, particularly - without being in any way invidious - that of Mr. Seamans whose long period of service had given him an unparalleled knowledge of the work of the Department and the District - a knowledge which was fully applied.

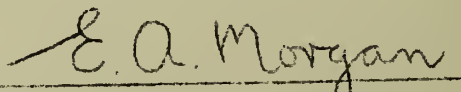
The respective vacancies were filled after a period of three months in each case - Mr. F. W. Locke (formerly with Hartismere R. D. C.) was appointed Cleansing Foreman, Mr. W. G. G. Lewis took up his first appointment as a Sanitary Inspector (having qualified during his training period with Swale R. D. C.) and Mr. Peter Adams, who succeeded Mr. Seamans, came to us from Brackley R. D. C. Each has now settled in to his particular sphere and, although lacking the experience of his predecessor, is playing an active part in the work of the Department.

The Council too had its own setbacks in the continued deferment of the mains water scheme, and the last-minute refusal of sanction for the commencement of the Debenham and Bramford sewerage schemes. The provision of new housing accommodation has, however, continued satisfactorily apart from a restriction on standards due to the effect of increased costs.

My sincere thanks are due to the Chairman and other Members of Council for their continued interest and efforts in the task of raising the standard of well-being of the community. I am also particularly grateful to those colleagues in my own and other Departments who have given loyal co-operation in the realisation that we are all playing a part in a local government Service. To none are these remarks more applicable than the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Marjory Dawson) whose support in official duties is sincerely appreciated.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "E. A. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts and Housing Surveys	...	387
Structural Defects	...	441
Overcrowding...	...	15
Sanitation Surveys	...	611
Drains and Sanitary Accommodation	...	433
Cesspools	...	184
Building Licences	...	97
Water Supplies.	...	335
Moveable Dwellings	...	182
Animals improperly kept	...	21
Filthy and verminous premises	...	59
Rodent Destruction	...	45
Clean Food Byelaws	...	102
Unsound Food...	...	31
Slaughterhouses	...	5
Milk Supplies..	...	63
Infectious Diseases	...	179
Factories and Workplaces	...	29
Refuse Removal.	...	205
Nightsoil Collection	...	175
Cesspool Emptying	...	103
Salvage	...	60
Emergency Mortuaries	...	59
Ditches and Watercourses	...	94
Rivers pollution	...	58

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3,973

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In addition to this 48 meetings of Council, and various Committees and Sub-Committees were attended.

## HOUSING

The 61 new houses built by the Council during the year was only one short of the highest figure for the seven Rural District Councils in East Suffolk.

It is disappointing that greater use is not being made of the provisions of Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, in order that the general standard of housing accommodation in the area can be raised. Whilst it is true that, due to what are considered by some to be inherent defects in the scope of the Act, certain properties are excluded from taking advantage of the benefits available in respect of others, little or no advantage is being taken even by the owners of unrestricted property. Of three tentative proposals which were made

to improve property, only in one case did the owner proceed further and make an official application. After a joint consultation between the owner, a representative of the Ministry of Health and myself, it was decided that the proposals would not meet the necessary requirements, and the application failed.

A Closing Order was substituted for Demolition Orders made in respect of a property (formerly four dwelling-houses) after the owner's claim that the property had architectural and historic merit had been upheld by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Plans, proposals for reconstruction and reconditioning, and an application for a Building Licence were then submitted and eventually approved. Soon after commencing the work, however, the builder, who was the owner's husband, for certain well-known reasons lost interest in the matter and, to date, nothing further has been done.

A Closing Order was also substituted for a Demolition Order in respect of another property where the claim that the building had architectural or historic merit was upheld by the Ministry, but in this case the proposals for reconditioning were proceeded with after they had received the Council's approval, and the work is still in progress.

The results of the preliminary housing survey which was completed four years ago are the subject of constant review, and detailed housing inspections have been made in the case of a large number of the houses categorised as "unfit for habitation and not capable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense". Advantage of the knowledge obtained from the housing survey is taken to deal with these properties when they are vacated, and during the course of the year 10 properties were dealt with under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. In 6 of the cases undertakings were accepted that the property would remain vacant until rendered fit for human habitation to the satisfaction of the local authority, and in two cases such work was carried out resulting, in one instance, in an increase of accommodation for the occupants of an adjoining house which was overcrowded and "back to back" to the property reconditioned. In 4 other cases Demolition Orders were made.

The enforcement of structural repairs to dwelling-houses, many of which in this area are let at exceptionally low rentals, occasionally continues to constitute a difficult problem. One is hesitant, in view of the financial position in many cases of the property owner,



to use the full power of the law, and yet consideration must be given to the position of the tenant who, although prompt in paying the statutory rent, is being compelled by the present housing shortage to continue the occupation of a property which, due to disrepair, is below the standard regarded as satisfactory for human habitation. Fortunately many owners recognise the wisdom of the old adage that "a stitch in time saves nine", and the fact that notices are only served in respect of what are considered to be major defects, including items which in themselves minor, are incidental to major defects is, I believe, generally appreciated. These owners, therefore, realise that it is in their own interests as well as that of their tenants to remedy the defects irrespective, within limits, of the monetary cost. Our chief difficulty, and the major portion of our routine duties in connection with house repairs, result from the shortsightedness of those who not only fail to realise their responsibilities, but who also overlook or attempt to overlook, what is in their own interests as property owners. The position in relation to Informal and Abatement Notices served is:-

	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Abatement</u>
Outstanding at 31/12/50.	26	1
Served during 1951	64	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	90	2
Complied with in 1951	79	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Outstanding at 31/12/51.	11	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>

As a result of compliance with these 79 Informal and 1 Abatement Notices the following structural and other works were carried out in 1951:-

27 floors repaired or reconstructed; 7 floors made damp-proof; 39 walls made damp-proof; 47 walls replastered; 1 wooden partition reconstructed; 1 skirting repaired; 7 fireplaces renewed; 9 fireplaces repaired; 1 new fireplace provided; 3 firebacks replaced; 8 cooking ranges repaired; 1 cooking range renewed; 2 cooking ranges provided; 12 wash coppers repaired; 1 sink replaced;

1 sink waste pipe repaired; 17 doors repaired; 2 door steps replaced; 1 window renewed; 16 windows repaired; 2 new windows provided; 4 sashcords renewed; more adequate ventilation provided in 3 rooms; 10 staircase treads replaced; 1 staircase riser replaced; 2 handrails renewed; 1 balusters renewed; 58 ceilings replastered; 23 roofs repaired; 8 external walls rebuilt; 11 external walls repointed; 19 external walls rendered; 7 lengths of eavesguttering replaced; 6 downpipes provided; 1 chimney stack rebuilt; 17 chimney stacks repointed; 4 bargeboards renewed; 10 flashings replaced; 1 dangerous structure demolished.

There was no marked change in the number of cases of overcrowding in 1951 and although, chiefly due to the Council's action in rehousing overcrowded families, there was reduction of 5 in the number existing at the end of 1950, 3 new cases were discovered during the year which resulted in there being a total of 37 known cases at the end of 1951.

### SANITATION

Sanitation Surveys of Debenham and Bramford were made the subject of a re-check in view of what was thought to be the proximity of the installation of sewerage schemes. It was again, however, a case of "hope deferred" and one is compelled, in frankness, to complete the quotation by saying that it "makes the heart sick" to see these communities - almost urban in character - being compelled to continue year after year without the benefit of a proper sewage disposal system.

Re-surveys were also made in connection with the proposed sewerage schemes for Needham Market and Stowupland, and the enlargement and improvement of the sewage disposal system at Haughley.

The installation of sewers, it should be appreciated, is only the first step in the sewerage of a parish. This work will in the main be the responsibility of the Council's Consulting Engineers. The connection of various properties to the sewer will also involve a great deal of detailed and complicated work, and the chief burden of dealing with it will fall on the staff of your Sanitary Department.



In the absence of sewerage schemes the majority of drainage systems installed, apart from those at new Council Houses, are provided by private individuals in possession of a building licence. 22 such systems were installed under licence during the year. In addition to this the following items were carried out solely as the result of compliance with Informal Notices (written or verbal):-

3 new drainage systems provided; 2 Drainage systems repaired; 3 drainage systems reconstructed; 19 drains unblocked; 2 cesspools rendered watertight; 5 overflowing cesspools emptied; 2 cesspool covers renewed; 1 inspection chamber cover replaced; ventilation provided to 1 drainage system; 2 yard areas paved; 1 yard area gully provided; 2 yard area gullies replaced; sanitary conveniences:- 4 provided; 11 reconstructed; 2 doors repaired; 5 roofs repaired; 2 walls reconstructed; 2 ceilings replastered; 1 seat and riser repaired; 1 pail provided.

#### BUILDING LICENCES

During the year it was decided that applications for building licences in respect of works for which byelaw or planning approval was not required should not, as in previous years, be issued without prior submission to, and approval by, the appropriate Committee of the Council. It was, at the same time, decided that the officer responsible for the submission of the application to a Committee (The Engineer and Surveyor where plans and byelaw approval were required, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector in all other cases) should be responsible for the signature of the licence. From at least one quarter surprise has been expressed that two Departments in the same Authority should be responsible for building licence procedure, but the system, which has been in force since 1945, works extremely well due to the degree of co-operation which exists between the two Departments. Whilst both Departments would welcome an end to the system of building licences, the method adopted has run in an extremely smooth manner (apart from the headaches created by a multiplicity of circulars) and, since the burden does not fall completely on one set of shoulders, it has avoided the necessity for the employment of a specialist officer and yet, since the duties are shared, has enabled applications to be thoroughly "vetted" including, where applicable, an inspection of the premises

concerned, in company with the owner, architect and/or builder. During 1951, 29 licences were issued by me to the total value of £6,941, in addition to this the Surveyor issued 29 licences to a total value of £12,666, in addition to 8 licences for new houses.

During the course of the year 2 infringements of the Building Licence Regulations were discovered and reported, but in each case the matter was eventually settled without the institution of proceedings.

### WATER SUPPLIES

In the absence of the mains water scheme it is estimated that only one third of the population of the district have a piped public water supply available to them. The present position is that whilst the first step - the provision of a 36" borehole - was taken two years ago, no further progress has been made, so that Needham Market, within  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the source of supply and having a population of approximately 1500, is still without that essential amenity which has been provided for some years past to scattered hamlets and even isolated cottages in the north-eastern portion of the area. As there appears to be no sign of any further progress being made (the responsibility for which state of affairs is by no means that of the Council or its officials) and yet schemes are being installed in all the rural districts surrounding us, we may find the Gipping area in a few years time being known as "the Sahara of Suffolk".

The installation of mains water supply, whilst reducing by a substantial amount the time spent on sampling the existing sources of supply, will involve a great deal of responsibility on the Department in seeing that present unsatisfactory sources are replaced, so far as is practicable and economically possible, by a piped water supply inside each house or other premises covered by the Water Act.

During the year 100 samples were taken from public supplies for bacteriological analysis and 4 for chemical analysis, whilst 67 samples for bacteriological analysis were taken from private sources in addition to 4 samples for chemical analysis.

The detailed results were as follows:-

<u>Type of Supply</u>	<u>No. of Sources</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
<u>Public - Bacteriological</u>			
Piped	15	26	5
Borewell	27	39	9
Deep Well	3	2	2
Shallow Well	4	3	14
<u>Private - Bacteriological</u>			
Piped	4	5	4
Borewell	15	9	19
Deep Well	4	1	3
Shallow Well	13	8	13
Ponds	3	-	5
<u>Public - Chemical</u>			
Piped	1	1	-
Borewell	2	2	-
Deep Well	1	1	-
Shallow Well	-	-	-
<u>Private - Chemical</u>			
Piped	2	2	-
Borewell	-	-	-
Deep Well	-	-	-
Shallow Well	1	-	1
Ponds	1	-	1

Work carried out in connection with private sources of water supply has achieved the following results:-

13 supplies rendered satisfactory;  
2 pumps repaired; 1 well cover replaced;  
2 rainwater tanks provided.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Caravans, even under the best regulated conditions, can never be regarded as an adequate substitute for

permanent housing accommodation. It is, therefore all the more regrettable to find that despite the progress which is being made in the provision of new housing accommodation, the number of caravans in the area is on the increase. Apart from other considerations the total internal floor area including space taken up by fittings in the majority of caravans would not comply with the minimum area for occupation by 2 persons under the overcrowding provisions of the Housing Acts.

During the year the number of caravans and caravan sites licensed increased from 29 to 50, and 15 to 26 respectively.

#### ANIMALS IMPROPERLY KEPT

This duty, chiefly involving the conditions under which pigs and poultry are kept, appears to present the Department with very few "headaches", and the 21 inspections carried out were chiefly in connection with advice and supervision in the siting of new structures for pig-keeping. It is not as generally known as it should be that this advice and supervision is freely available and, if sought, will help to prevent that trouble between neighbours which does occasionally occur when cause has been given for complaint, and which during 1951 necessitated the service of two notices before the abatement of the nuisance was achieved.

#### FILTHY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES

It is significant that the number of visits found to be necessary in connection with filthy conditions decreased in 1951 - whether this was due to the fact that soap came off the ration towards the end of 1950! or that some of the "hard-core" cases either passed away or were transferred to an Institution, it is difficult to say. Equally too it may be said that the increasing interest in the plight of the elderly who are living alone has lead to a greater measure of assistance being provided them and having, apart from my official duties, taken a little interest in the welfare of the aged in my own Parish, I feel that a tribute must be paid to certain voluntary organisations, notably the W. V. S., for their co-operation in making



easier the lives of many of those who, having endured years of hard toil, are still unable, without outside help, to sit back and enjoy their comparatively few years of retirement.

There were only two premises in the area in which there was found to be a necessity for disinfestation by the Rodent Operative.

Visits were also made in respect of 9 accumulations of manure or other foul material.

#### RODENT DESTRUCTION.

During the year the part-time Rodent Operative visited 870 premises (including 91 farms), 181 of which were treated or re-treated for rats and 5 for mice, the resulting "known kill" was 1,032 rats and 48 mice. Included in these treatments were the sewerage systems at Haughley and Broomspath Estate, Stowupland, the refuse tip at Willisham, the vehicle and salvage depots and tip at Lion Barn, Barking.

The Agricultural Executive Committee's organisation for dealing with rats on farm premises remains in existence, and continues to prove its value in connection with infestations discovered by the Rodent Operative during his inspection of farms. As the result of this co-operation between the two authorities the number of farms under contract for treatment by the Agricultural Executive Committee is gradually increasing.

#### FOOD.

Further progress continues to be made in achieving compliance with the requirements of the "Clean Food" byelaws. Although the standards are, quite rightly, national in scope, their attainment in rural districts such as ours is more difficult than in towns where the provision of a constant supply of both hot and cold water, as well as adequate arrangements for the disposal of sink waste and other foul matter, is a sine qua non.

Even the education and co-operation of the food-trader can only be obtained by periodical routine visits, the area being too scattered to allow for the formation of

Clean Food Guilds or the holding of an occasional series of lectures, and the absence of suitable premises prevents the provision of film publicity. There but remains the propaganda of the local and national press and the influence of these media upon the food trader and the housewife, the latter being led to look for and expect improvements not only in the hygienic methods of her supplier but also in the lay-out and structural condition of his premises. Reference has been made to the necessity for the co-operation of the food trader, and it is a welcome fact that in no case where this has been required has it been refused. Evidence of this exists in the arrangement whereby in addition to routine visits to food shops, visits are also made for the surrender of unsound articles of food on notification by the trader.

Details of the quantity and nature of foodstuffs prevented from being used for human consumption during the year are as follows:-

307 lbs of beef; 20 lbs of pork; 11 lbs of mutton; 51 $\frac{1}{4}$  lbs of ham; 2 - 6 lb tins and 3 - 12 oz tins of corned beef; 25 dozen - 10 oz tins of pork; 2 - 17 lb tins of cooked ham; 2 - 4 lb tins and 2 - 12 oz tins of luncheon meat; 2 - 1 lb 2 oz tins of veal and ham loaf; 2 - 6 lb tins of veal; 1 - 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  oz tin of salmon; 4 - 2lb tins of peaches; 1 - 2 lb tin of pears; 3 - 16 oz and 2 - 15 oz tins of condensed milk; 1 - 16 oz tin and 5 - 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  oz tins of evaporated milk; 18 - 4 oz and 6 - 6 oz packets of processed cheese.

Assistance in carrying out meat inspection at the Stowmarket Abattoir was provided on those few occasions when the Sanitary Inspector of that area required it. It would appear that the activity of our colleague in the Stowmarket area and the support provided him in this area in connection with the more hygienic transport of meat is slowly but surely producing an effect on "the powers that be".

No premises received registration for fish-frying, but 7 were registered for the retail sale of ice-cream - the respective totals for the area are now 14 and 26. 19 persons were granted licences or the renewal of licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. 3 retailers of milk were authorised to sell milk under

the designation "Pasteurised", and one other a supplementary licence for the same purpose. Only one application was received for the retail sale of "Tuberculin Tested" milk, and this was refused on the grounds that the premises were too cramped to allow that degree of supervision required, the arrangements for preventing 'contamination' by undesignated milk were inadequate, and samples taken did not conform to the standard required for Tuberculin Tested milk. No appeal was registered against the Council's decision.

Of the 13 samples of milk taken during the year 7 were satisfactory and 6 unsatisfactory:-

<u>Designation.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Tuberculin Tested	2	5
Pasteurised	3	1
Ungraded	2	-

12 of the 15 samples of ice-cream were reported to be of satisfactory quality.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Investigation was made in all cases of serious infectious disease reported to the Medical Officer of Health. In only a very small proportion of these was disinfection carried out other than by the householder. In addition to this the steam disinfection of bedding was carried out in two cases by arrangement with the Borough General Hospital at Ipswich.

In February a child living at a caravan site occupied by about 20 caravans was taken ill and removed to an Ipswich hospital. Whilst there she was diagnosed to be suffering from a salmonella infection. During the course of the investigations specimens of faeces and urine were obtained from all the occupants of the caravans on the site as well as from the licensee of the site and his wife. Water samples were also taken



from the nearby river and the source of drinking water, but all proved negative. It was, however, felt that the time spent on the investigation was not wasted as it provided an assurance that the case was an isolated one and there was no possibility of its developing into an epidemic.

An outbreak of paratyphoid fever involving 20 persons at Stowmarket, 7 in our own District and 3 in an adjoining Rural District occurred at the end of the year. Intensive action on the part of all officers concerned resulted in the discovery of the "carrier" who was a resident in this area, but employed in connection with foodstuffs at Stowmarket (the source from which the "carrier" received infection remains a mystery).

During the course of the investigation dozens of contacts were interviewed, and specimens of their faeces and urine were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Ipswich. This occurrence and the prompt action taken provided that evidence (if such evidence is necessary) for the provision and maintenance of that degree of vigilance which can only result from an adequate and efficient staff. One would prefer, however, that the need for publicising our services did not result from such occurrences - even on this occasion restraint was exercised lest undue alarm might be caused, and we were content with remaining as "the back-room boys" whose efforts included stand-by duty during the Christmas holiday period.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

92 premises are registered under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937 - 5 as outworkers premises, 15 as factories employing no mechanical power, 1 electricity sub-station and 71 factories employing mechanical power.

Visits have been made to all the 15 premises employing no mechanical power as well as to the 5 outworkers premises (4 for glove-making and 1 for wearing apparel) and the conditions have in each case been found satisfactory. On the few occasions when an inspection of a factory employing mechanical power has been possible no serious cause for dissatisfaction has been found with the manner in which the requirements of Section 7 - relating to sanitary conveniences - is being complied with. Due to lack of time caused by pre-occupation with other matters, however, only a small proportion of these 71 registered premises are being regularly inspected.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Supervision of this service during the period from the middle of May to the middle of July was, quite frankly, a nightmare. During this period of 44 working days one of the 10 men employed was away due to illness for 18 days, another for 15 days and a third for 13 days. The driver-loader of the nightsoil vehicle tendered his resignation and was not replaced until 20 working days later. In addition to this 4 men had each received a week's paid leave and another Territorial Army leave for 11 days. We were fortunate in obtaining the services of a man as a casual employee for a week on nightsoil collection and for three weeks on refuse collection and salvage, but the net loss of what the statisticians call man-days was  $76\frac{1}{2}$  - equivalent to the employment of one man for over 15 weeks.

The position was so serious that for a period two of the official staff of the Department assisted in the work and at a time when the Department had already been without clerical assistance for about three months.

Were this the whole picture it would be black enough, but due to the cesspool emptying vehicle having been over worked during the previous three years there had, during the period to which this record relates, been breakdowns on six occasions resulting in deferment of nightsoil collection for 24 hours, and in every case necessitating postponement of cesspool emptying work for one or two days. Fortunately, as a result of the readiness of those who were still available to "go to it", all these difficulties were eventually overcome and, so far as the inhabitants of the area were concerned, the various services were maintained without causing but very little inconvenience.

The decision to employ an additional man on the cleansing scheme, and to purchase a second cesspool emptier in order that cesspool emptying and nightsoil collection could be carried out by separate vehicles should prevent a recurrence of the situation in which we found ourselves during this period.

Towards the end of the year it was decided that the working week should revert from 5 to 5½ days and, after consultation with the Treasurer, to amend the time-sheets to end the working week on Thursday instead of Friday. This latter step resulted from an experience whereby time-sheets made out on Thursday in respect of hours intended to be worked on a Friday and which, in this particular instance, had not been worked, resulted in adjustments having to be made in respect of hours and wages on the time-sheet for the following week.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The absence of a sufficient number of satisfactory disposal points continues to impede the full efficiency of the service. It is rather curious, to say the least, that this should be the position in a rural area, but all sites hitherto inspected are either too close to a community, or are so remote that the expenditure required to construct a properly surfaced road of sufficient width would be colossal. In addition to this, owners of land, even where there may be a difficulty to be overcome, are not over-anxious to allow the tipping of refuse, although it will be later covered and properly controlled. This is due to the fear that such deposits may become rat-infested, and although we have the services of our Rodent Operative available to deal with such infestations should they occur, this fact is not, in itself, sufficient to dispel the fears of those who have been approached regarding a tipping site. In the meantime we have, fortunately, the pit at Willisham, which, although not ideally sited geographically in relation to the rest of the area, is being properly controlled and will provide adequate room for refuse disposal for very many years to come. The absence of a tip covering vehicle for a period of three months compelled us to obtain the services of a local firm for the conveyance of covering material to the tip and the charge made - 18/6 per 4 cubic yard load - to cover material and hire of vehicle could not be considered excessive. With the delivery of a new vehicle the nominal charge of 1/- per load for material will be amply repaid by the even more effective coverage which will be possible and which will prevent a repetition of the accident which occurred when we were not in a position to provide any tip covering material whatsoever - the tip which had been smouldering for about 6 - 8 weeks collapsed under a refuse vehicle which was discharging its load,



precautions were taken to prevent the vehicle overturning and to prevent the petrol tank being affected by the heat from the tip. These were successful and by the use of a hired tractor, the undamaged refuse vehicle was eventually brought back on to firm ground.

#### NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION.

It is estimated that the number of pails emptied each week is now almost 2,000. On any basis this is an exceptional performance, especially when the offensive nature of the work is considered, and can be better appreciated when it is disclosed that the total quantity removed per annum is in excess of 250,000 gallons. The resignation of the driver-loader during the year created a temporary difficulty, this was overcome by the transfer of one of the day-team - already understaffed at that time. The present team has, fortunately, remained intact since the appointment of a new driver-loader. A twice-weekly collection operates in parts of the parishes of Bramford, Haughley, and Needham Market with a once-weekly collection at Coddensham, Claydon, Debenham and Great Blakenham. There are a number of other parishes in the area where this system should be in force, but until the larger parishes have been provided with an opportunity of discarding this out-moded method of sanitation, to extend the scheme will be impracticable without the operation of overtime - something which the men, quite understandably, are reluctant to undertake.

#### CESSPOOL EMPTYING

Between January 1st and December 31st a total of 489 cesspools (396 at Council house sites and 93 at private houses) were emptied. By arrangement with Ipswich and Stowmarket Councils a large proportion of the 916 loads removed were discharged into the sewers in those areas, the respective totals being 513 and 358. The remainder we were able to dispose of on agricultural land in this locality, and this arrangement, where possible, not only enables disposal charges to be avoided but also adds to the time available for dealing with particular cesspools in addition to preventing the possibility, in the case of the larger cesspools at Council house sites, of having to make a return visit the following day to complete the job.

The delivery at the end of the year of a second vehicle to be used for nightsoil collection will also permit of more efficient attention being given to cesspool emptying as there will be no future possibility of either vehicle being overworked to anything like the same extent as the vehicle which has hitherto served in the dual capacity of cesspool emptier and nightsoil collection vehicle.

### SALVAGE.

In comparison with adjoining areas we are still well below the standard which should be achieved in waste paper collection despite every effort which has been made to publicise the need for more salvage and the effect which an increased return has in helping to reduce the rates. There is no reason, apart from the inclination of householders, tradesmen and others to burn waste paper and other materials rather than salvage them, why the present returns should not be at least doubled.

In September, a small building attached to the rear of the barn used as a salvage depot collapsed and tore away a portion of the main structure. The question of either providing first aid repairs to the existing building or replacing it by a new structure was considered, but it was suggested to the Committee that a more detailed estimate of cost for completely repairing the building should be asked for before a decision was arrived at. In view of the difficulty experienced in getting builders to submit an estimate no definite decision was made before the end of the year. In the meantime the gaps in the structure have been covered over with fibreboard containers, but the defective roof and wall timbers still remain.

The sum of £878. 3. 2d. was received during the year from the sale of salvage, the price of which fluctuated considerably and although it eventually reached an inflationary level and we would have been pleased to keep it at that, the law of supply and demand again operated to our detriment and the price began to fall before the end of the year.

Details of the quantity of salvage sold and the amounts received are as follows:-

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	£	s	d
Mixed Paper	38	16	1	-	528	12	0
Newspapers	7	4	2	-	168	6	6
Books & Magazines	6	14	2	-	144	2	2
Cardboard		8	3	-	8	6	3
Miscellaneous:-							
Bottles, scrap metal)					28	16	3
bones and cartage. )							
					£878	3	2

#### POLLUTION OF RIVERS

#### DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES

Although various ditches throughout the area periodically give cause for complaint in a minor degree, complaint of a more serious nature regarding a ditch at Claydon was received towards the end of the year. It would appear that this ditch was originally formed to receive sullage water from about a dozen houses in the vicinity.. At a later, but unknown, date it was also used for the reception of surface water from the highway. Although primarily the responsibility of this Council, the almost complete silting up of the ditch was to a very large extent caused by grit and road-dust being carried into the highway drain and thence to the ditch. The fall in the level of the ditch was an extremely poor one and, aggravated by the silting up, this resulted in the blockage of the house drains connected to it. Although the nuisance could not be completely cured, except by the installation of a sewerage system in the parish - an item which is proposed but which will not achieve fruition for a number of years - legal argument ensued as to responsibility for the cost of the work involved. This has now been settled on the common-sense basis which was originally advocated, namely a 50-50 basis as between this authority and the County Council.

Complaint was also received from the occupier of a cottage near The Wash at Debenham that the property was, after periods of heavy rainfall, completely isolated and subjected to flooding. It was found on investigation that the complaint was slightly exaggerated, but it was fairly obvious that the trouble which was being experienced was due to a "bottleneck" in the river about 100 yards long below the cottage. Whilst there was no question in my own mind as to the desirability of dealing with this, especially as the position was further aggravated by the partial obstruction of the river by a willow tree which had fallen across its course, it was eventually decided that the onus of responsibility did not lie with the Council.

Serious pollution of the Gipping again occurred in 1951 and it looks as if this item will become a permanent feature of my Annual Report for many more years to come. It had, at one time, appeared that the improvements in the sewerage arrangements of the adjoining urban district were going to be successful, at least so far as the prevention of any polluting matter being discharged into the river was concerned. This has, unfortunately, proved a false hope, and the Analyst's reports on samples taken vary from "There is an appreciable (although not serious) degree of pollution which is apparently animal in origin. There appears to be no particular evidence of the presence of trade waste" to "It is difficult to believe that this is a river water at all. It would have been accepted by us without comment as a sample of weak sewage. The odour of the sample was very offensive, and we can only describe the sample as so grossly polluted with sewage as to be an intolerable nuisance".

It would perhaps be better to end "without comment" as I am fully aware that this matter is of equal concern to my colleagues in the adjoining district. It but remains for them and us to bring pressure to bear on those in authority at a higher level, and we may yet live to see not only Stowmarket but some of the parishes along the river in our own area provided with satisfactory means of sewage treatment, resulting in one of the long-standing bugbears of the area being finally removed.





